

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A drilling fluid additive comprising: talc, graphite, ~~polymer~~ copolymer beads and at least one carrier, said carrier is selected from a group consisting of oils, esters, glycols, cellulose, olefins and mixtures thereof.
2. (original) The drilling fluid additive of Claim 1 further comprising uintaite.
3. (original) The drilling fluid additive of Claim 1 wherein said carrier comprises polypropylene glycol.
4. (cancelled) The drilling fluid additive of Claim 1 wherein said carrier is selected from a group consisting of oils, esters, glycols, cellulose, olefins and mixtures thereof.
5. (previously amended) The drilling fluid additive of Claim 2 wherein said talc comprises from about 1% to about 20% of said additive, said graphite comprises from about 1% to about 30% of said additive, said carrier comprises from about 47% to about 90% of said additive, said beads comprises from about 2% to about 50% and said uintaite comprises from about 1% to about 40% of said additive.
6. (original) The drilling fluid additive of Claim 1 wherein said carrier is selected from a group consisting of polypropylene glycol, polyethoxylated glycol, polybutylene

glycol, polyethylene glycol, propylene glycol, polyester polyol-poly(oxyethylene-oxy) propylene glycol, polyoxyalkylene glycol ethers and mixtures thereof.

7. (currently amended) The drilling fluid additive of Claim 2 + wherein said uintiate is treated with a second carrier.

8. (original) The drilling fluid additive of Claim 7 wherein said second carrier is selected from a group consisting of oils, esters, glycols, cellulose, olefins and mixtures thereof.

9. (currently amended) The drilling fluid additive of Claim 7 + wherein said second carrier comprises an ethoxylated glycol.

10. (currently amended) A drilling fluid additive manufactured by a method comprising: admixing talc, graphite, ~~polymer~~ copolymer beads and at least one carrier, said carrier is selected from a group consisting of oils, esters, glycols, cellulose, olefins and mixtures thereof.

11. (currently amended) The drilling fluid additive of Claim 10 wherein said carrier is first admixed with said talc and then the graphite and ~~polymer~~ copolymer beads are admixed.

12. (original) The drilling fluid additive of Claim 10 further comprising admixing an uintaite with said carrier, talc and graphite mixture.

13. (cancelled) The drilling fluid additive of Claim 10 wherein said carrier is selected from a group consisting of oils, esters, glycols, cellulose, olefins and mixtures thereof.

14. (original) The drilling fluid additive of Claim 12 wherein said uintaite is pre-treated with a second carrier prior to being admixed to said carrier, talc and graphite mixture.

15. (previously amended) The drilling fluid additive of Claim 12 wherein said talc comprises from about 1% to about 20% of said additive, said graphite comprises from about 1% to about 30% of said additive, said carrier comprises from about 47% to about 90% of said additive, said beads comprises from about 2% to about 50% and said uintaite comprises from about 1% to about 40% of said additive.

16. (currently amended) The drilling fluid additive of Claim ~~10~~ 14 wherein said second carrier is selected from a group consisting of oils, esters, glycols, cellulose, olefins and mixtures thereof.

17. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a drilling fluid additive, said method comprising:

admixing talc with at least one carrier, said carrier is selected from a group consisting of oils, esters, glycols, cellulose, olefins and mixtures thereof;

admixing graphite to said talc and carrier mixture; and

admixing ~~polymer~~ copolymer beads to said talc, graphite and carrier mixture.

18. (currently amended) The method of Claim 17 further comprising admixing an uintaite with said talc, carrier, ~~polymer~~ copolymer beads and graphite mixture.

19. (currently amended) The method of Claim 18 wherein said uintaite is pretreated with a second carrier prior to admixing said uintaite to said talc, carrier, ~~polymer~~ copolymer beads and graphite mixture.

20. (previously amended) The method of Claim 19 wherein said second carriers are selected from a group consisting of oils, esters, glycols, cellulose, olefins and mixtures thereof.